

Senate Resolution 923

By: Senators Butterworth of the 50th, Rogers of the 21st, Grant of the 25th, Heath of the 31st, Pearson of the 51st and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club and recognizing the importance in
2 retaining the southern terminus of the Appalachian Trail at Springer Mountain, Georgia; and
3 for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Appalachian Trail is a simple footpath through the wild, scenic, wooded,
5 pastoral, and culturally significant lands of the Appalachian Mountains, with the portion of
6 the trail in Georgia lying completely within the Chattahoochee National Forest; and

7 WHEREAS, since 1930, the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club has worked diligently and
8 conscientiously to protect, preserve, and maintain the Appalachian Trail in Georgia; and

9 WHEREAS, during the 80 years the Club has preserved America's premiere hiking trail in
10 Georgia, it has successfully staved off encroachments to both the trail and terminus, lobbied
11 for the establishment of four federally designated Wilderness Areas, and prevented the
12 extension of the Blue Ridge Parkway into Georgia, which would have obliterated much of
13 Georgia's Trail; and

14 WHEREAS, over 50 years ago, the Club decided to move the southern terminus location
15 from Mount Oglethorpe to Springer Mountain in order to isolate the terminus and prevent
16 the encroachment of future development or tourism from hindering enjoyment of the trail;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, there have been recent proposals to move the southern terminus of the
19 Appalachian Trail from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mount Cheaha in Alabama; and

20 WHEREAS, Springer Mountain stands as the highest peak in the eastern United States at its
21 southern latitude, standing approximately 3,800 feet in elevation, and is accessible only by
22 footpath with no surrounding man-made structures; and

23 WHEREAS, moving the southern terminus from Springer Mountain to a location in Alabama
24 would result in settling a terminus at an elevation at least 3,000 feet lower than its current
25 location, and no guarantees are made that the new terminus location would be as isolated and
26 serene as Springer Mountain; and

27 WHEREAS, relocating the southern terminus to Alabama would extend the Appalachian
28 Trail and force hikers to hike approximately 50 miles along public roads in Georgia in
29 competition with vehicular traffic; and

30 WHEREAS, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy is memorialized to retain the southern
31 terminus location for the Appalachian Trail at Springer Mountain; and

32 WHEREAS, a relocation of the southern terminus would obliterate the fundamental purpose
33 of the Appalachian Trail, which is to provide a footpath through nature and a means of
34 escaping the development, congestion, and clamor of everyday life.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
36 commend the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club for its diligence in protecting and preserving
37 the Appalachian Trail in Georgia and the Trail's southern terminus, recognize the need for
38 the southern terminus to remain at Springer Mountain, and urge the Appalachian Trail
39 Conservancy to reconfirm the southern terminus location as Springer Mountain.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
41 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club.